

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 HEW-08 COME-00 TRSE-00

SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GW

SUBJECT: EFFORTS TO RESOLVE FRG PESTICIDE RESIDUE PROBLEMS ON GRAINS IMPORTED FOR FEDERAL RESERVE

REF: BONN 13428

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO PRESSURE FROM THE GERMAN GRAIN IMPORT TRADE, THE MANAGER OF THE GRAIN SECTION, FEDERAL IMPORT AND STORAGE AGENCY HAS APPARENTLY AGREED TO TRY TO RESOLVE WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, MATTERS CONCERNING PESTICIDE RESIDUES ON GRAIN IMPORTED FOR THE FEDERAL RESERVE. PRESENT TENDERS REQUIRE IMPORTED GRAINS TO BE INSPECTED FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES UPON ARRIVAL IN GERMANY AND, IF FOUND TO BE IN EXCESS OF ESTABLISHED FRG TOLERANCES, ARE REJECTED. THUS, THE IMPORTER IS UNABLE TO FULFILL HIS CONTRACT AND FURTHER, IS NOT PERMITTED TO DISPOSE OF THE PRODUCT IN GERMANY. END SUMMARY.

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2. A RECENT IMPORT AND STORAGE AGENCY TENDER FOR 22-

28,000 TONS OF SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE CORN BROUGHT THE PESTICIDE RESIDUE PROBLEM TO A HEAD. BECAUSE IMPORTERS CLAIM THEY HAVE NO ASSURANCE THAT IMPORTED GRAINS CAN COMPLY WITH FRG PESTICIDE RESIDUE REGULATIONS, THEY HOPED TO BOYCOTT THE TENDER. ONE INTERNATIONAL TRADER, HOWEVER, OFFERED AGAINST THE TENDER AT THE LAST MOMENT AND WAS ACCEPTED. DELIVERY IS SPECIFIED FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER.

3. EMBASSY WAS PROVIDED WITH A COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN GRAIN HANDLERS TO THE MANAGER OF THE FEDERAL IMPORT AND STORAGE AGENCY WHICH IS INFORMALLY TRANSLATED AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE WE REFER TO THE CONVERSATION THE UNDERSIGNED HAD WITH GENTLEMEN OF YOUR BOARD FOLLOWING THE TENDER FOR THE PURCHASE OF SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE CORN. WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE AGAIN, THAT IT IS THE URGENT WISH OF THE GRAIN IMPORTERS TO AVOID IN FUTURE TENDERS THE PROBLEMS WHICH DEVELOPED IN CONNECTION WITH THE SAID TENDER CONCERNING PLANT PROTECTION REGULATIONS. YOU PROMISED US THAT YOU WOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE ON YOUR OWN TO HAVE A DISCUSSION OF THE ENTIRE MATTER UNDER QUESTION. IN SUCH A DISCUSSION, A LEADING REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GRAIN TRADE SHOULD PARTICIPATE WITH THE PLANT PROTECTION REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH. WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SUCH A DISCUSSION BEING SCHEDULED SOON SO THAT PRIOR TO ADDITIONAL FEDERAL RESERVE TENDERS THE PRESENT INTOLERABLE SITUATION MAY BE PRESENTED TO ALL AGENCIES INVOLVED. IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR WISH, WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM CONTACTING ANY FEDERAL MINISTRIES DIRECTLY BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE. HOWEVER, WE EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THIS MATTER IS BEING INITIATED VERY SOON END QUOTE.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: ON THE BASIS OF PAST DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MANAGER, WE ARE CONVINCED OF HIS CONCERN THAT STRICT ADHERENCE TO PRESENT FRG PESTICIDE RESIDUE TOLERANCES MAY IMPINGE ON THE PROPER FUNCTIONING OF THE AGENCY. HE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT (1) THE AGENCY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SATISFY MINIMUM FRG RESERVE REQUIREMENTS

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THAT INCLUDE THE NATO AND BERLIN RESERVES, AND (2) ON FUTURE GRAIN TENDERS THE AGENCY MAY NOT RECEIVE SUFFICIENT OFFERS TO REFLECT GENUINE PRICE COMPETITION. HILLENBRAND

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